

EXHIBIT N

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

IN RE GOOGLE PLAY STORE ANTITRUST LITIGATION

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

Epic Games Inc. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD

In re Google Play Consumer Antitrust Litigation, Case No. 3:20-cv-05761-JD

In re Google Play Developer Antitrust Litigation, Case No. 3:20-cv-05792-JD

State of Utah et al. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:21-cv-05227-JD

Case No. 3:21-md-02981-JD

**JOINT STATEMENT RE: CASE
SCHEDULE**

Judge: Hon. James Donato

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1 Pursuant to this Court’s Order dated July 22, 2021 (*In re Google Play Store Antitrust*
2 *Litigation*, No. 3:21-md-02981-JD (N.D. Cal. 2021) (“MDL”) ECF No. 67), the parties in the
3 above-captioned MDL action (“the Parties”), by and through their undersigned counsel, submit
4 this Joint Statement regarding the Parties’ proposed case schedule.

5 **I. JOINT STATEMENT OF THE PARTIES**

6 The Parties have exchanged proposals and met and conferred regarding a revised
7 proposed schedule for these cases but have been unable to reach agreement. The different
8 Plaintiffs in these cases – Epic, Consumer Plaintiffs, Developer Plaintiffs, and the State of Utah
9 and its co-plaintiff States, Commonwealths, and Districts (collectively the “States”) – have been
10 able to reach agreement among themselves, and so consequently there are only two competing
11 proposals regarding the schedule: Plaintiffs’ proposal (see page 4) and Google’s proposal (see
12 page 11). The Parties are not far apart on the proposed date for a trial, but there are differences
13 between the interim dates proposed by each side, which are addressed below. One area where
14 the Parties are in agreement, however, is that an April or May 2022 trial is not feasible due to
15 various factors. Plaintiffs therefore propose a trial date in September 2022; Google proposes a
16 trial date in October 2022.

17 The Parties recognize that at this time it is difficult to predict how the various cases and
18 parties will be situated at time of trial. Accordingly, the Parties propose that a firm trial structure
19 be submitted closer to the trial date. Plaintiffs and Google address this topic in their respective
20 sections below.

21 **II. PLAINTIFFS’ SCHEDULE PROPOSAL**

22 Plaintiffs have worked hard to agree upon one unified, coordinated schedule across all of
23 the different plaintiff groups that balances and accommodates their different circumstances.
24 Plaintiffs believe that the Parties can and should work together to be “trial ready” by September
25 2022. The States note, however, that they have not yet received any discovery in this case and
26 have had only limited substantive discussions with the other Parties. This is in part because
27 modifications to the existing Protective Order to address state law issues (e.g., freedom of
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1 information laws), though underway, need to be completed by the Parties and approved by the
2 Court before confidential documents can be produced. The States anticipate receiving all
3 existing discovery in the case soon after the modified Protective Order is approved and will use
4 all reasonable efforts to meet the schedule. However, while the States and Google began the
5 Rule 26(f) process on August 10, there remain significant differences of opinion as to the nature
6 of the States' action and the appropriate scope of discovery that Google may request, which
7 could significantly alter the proposed deadlines.

8 While Plaintiffs recognize the benefit of a unified and coordinated pretrial schedule across
9 the different cases, they also recognize that at this time, it is hard to predict how the various cases
10 and parties will be situated closer to trial. For that reason, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the
11 issue of the precise format and structure of the trial(s) across these coordinated actions be deferred
12 until a date closer to the "trial ready" date, when the Parties and the Court will have a better sense
13 of how the cases are developing and of whether there are issues or factors that are present or may
14 arise that militate toward or against proceeding in a certain way. Specifically, Plaintiffs propose
15 that the Court set a date certain—which Plaintiffs respectfully submit should be in the spring or
16 early summer of 2022—by which the Parties can meet and confer and then submit a statement
17 addressing the issue of trial structure on a more informed basis (including, based upon the progress
18 of the various cases in the interim). Given Google's suggestions below, however, the Consumer
19 and Developers Plaintiffs note that in their view, any damages phase of their respective trials
20 should be tried to a jury separately—*i.e.*, with separate Consumer Class and Developer Class
21 damage trials. The Developer and Consumer Plaintiffs' damages claims do not raise common
22 issues—or seek the same damages—so as to warrant joining the damages trials. Here, a separate
23 damages trial for Consumers and Developers is warranted to avoid confusion and prejudice. *See*
24 Fed. R. Civ. Pro. Rule 42(b) (separate trials or to bifurcate trial can be warranted in order (1) to
25 avoid prejudice, (2) to promote expedition and economy, or (3) to further convenience).

26 **A. Plaintiffs' Proposed Schedule**

27 Plaintiffs' proposed schedule is as follows:

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Plaintiffs' Proposed Schedule	
ACTIVITY	DATE
Motion to Dismiss	September 8, 2021
Opposition to Motion to Dismiss	October 15, 2021
Reply on Motion to Dismiss	November 2, 2021
Hearing on Google Motion to Dismiss	November 18, 2021
Substantial Completion of the States' Document Production and Google Document Production in response to the States' Requests	December 17, 2021
Final Document Production Deadline for Epic, the Class Plaintiffs, and Google	December 17, 2021
Fact Discovery Cut Off	March 18, 2022
Opening Merits and Class Certification Expert Reports	April 1, 2022
Class Certification Motion	April 1, 2022
Class Certification Opposition With Expert Reports	May 2, 2022
Rebuttal Merits Expert Reports ¹	May 27, 2022
Class Certification Reply With Expert Reports	May 27, 2022
Class Certification Expert Discovery Cut Off	May 27, 2022
Class Certification Hearing (including expert testimony/hot tubbing if the Court requests)	June 11, 2022
Merits Expert Discovery Cut Off	June 21, 2022
Dispositive and Daubert Motions	June 24, 2022
Opposition to Dispositive and Daubert Motions	July 29, 2022
Reply to Dispositive and Daubert Motions	August 10, 2022

¹ In addition, Plaintiffs recognize that there may be a need for a party to submit a reply and have reserved rights for any party to submit a reply expert report.

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1	Serve (but not file) Motions in Limine	August 10, 2022
2	Expert Hot Tub	August 18, 2022
3	Dispositive Motion Hearing	August 18, 2022
4	Pretrial Filing Date	August 24, 2022
5	Pretrial Hearing	September 1, 2022
6	Liability Trial Ready	September 21, 2022

7 Plaintiffs believe the above proposed schedule achieves trial readiness by all parties in a
 8 way that is both viable and equitable, allowing all parties sufficient time to prosecute their cases
 9 effectively while avoiding unnecessary delays. Google's proposed schedule, by contrast,
 10 achieves neither of these goals; in fact, Google's proposed schedule introduces unnecessary
 11 delay *and* denies Plaintiffs the necessary time to prosecute their claims.

12 **B. Response to Google's Proposed Schedule**

13 Google's proposal diverges from Plaintiffs in two meaningful ways.

14 *First*, Google proposes that the class certification briefing, expert disclosures and hearing
 15 all precede all merits expert disclosures and discovery. That is unnecessary. That sequencing
 16 will both delay and compress the schedule for merits expert reports – particularly the time
 17 between initial reports and rebuttal reports (56 days proposed by Plaintiffs; 14 days proposed by
 18 Google).

19 The Consumer and Developer Plaintiffs are working diligently to prepare expert reports
 20 for class and merits and believe that a common date for class and merits reports is the most
 21 efficient course. Also, in light of the fact that (i) the parties continue to produce relevant
 22 documents, (ii) the parties have yet to begin depositions, and (iii) Google has recently produced a
 23 vast amount of transactional data, an April 1st deadline for class certification provides sufficient
 24 time for Consumer and Developer Plaintiffs to prepare their expert reports in support of class
 25 certification.² There is no reason why those workstreams cannot proceed contemporaneously.

26 _____
 27 ² To the extent the Court prefers a sequenced schedule, Consumer and Developer Plaintiffs,
 taking into account the progress of discovery to date, may be prepared to submit class

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1 Google argues this is intended to mitigate “one-way intervention” problems. However, as
2 Google recognizes, one-way intervention issues only occur when merits rulings are decided
3 before issues related to class certification. Plaintiffs’ proposal does not contemplate *any* merits
4 rulings before class certification is resolved, and thus does not implicate any “one-way
5 intervention” problems. *See, e.g., Taylor v. FedEx Freight, Inc.*, No. 1:13-CV-01137-LJO-
6 BAM, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 97706, at *7 (E.D. Cal. July 24, 2015) (rejecting defendants
7 argument that they were at risk of one-way intervention because “plaintiff is not moving for
8 summary judgment, or any other dispositive ruling prior to class certification. . . Therefore, there
9 is no risk that the Court will rule on the merits prior to certification.”).

10 *Second*, and relatedly, Plaintiffs propose a *contemporaneous* exchange by Plaintiffs and
11 Google of initial and then rebuttal expert reports. Google, by contrast, proposes a *sequential*
12 disclosure of expert reports, with Plaintiffs going first, Google responding, and Plaintiffs then
13 filing a reply. Google’s proposal would be highly prejudicial to Plaintiffs. Specifically,
14 Plaintiffs’ schedule contemplates that each side will have about two months to respond to the
15 other’s merits expert reports, a necessary window of time in light of the likely significant number
16 of experts, the complexity of their opinions, and the centrality of their opinions to this case. In
17 contrast, Google’s schedule affords Google seven weeks to respond to Plaintiffs’ opening
18 reports, but then allows Plaintiffs only *two weeks* to respond to Google’s merits expert reports.
19 That compressed, sequential schedule is inequitable and inefficient. And importantly, Google’s
20 proposal of a sequential exchange of expert reports represents a departure from the positions
21 Google itself took previously in proposed schedules it submitted to the Court – including in the
22 Joint Statement re: Case Schedule dated May 27, 2021 filed in this case (ECF No. 46), and the
23 November 6, 2020 Stipulation and Proposed Schedule filed in *Epic Games, Inc. v. Google LLC*,
24 No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD (N.D. Cal. 2020) (ECF No. 87). Those prior schedules proposed by
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26 certification expert reports in February at the earliest. Accordingly, Plaintiffs propose the
27 following dates for class certification if it is separated from merits expert discovery: February
28 11, 2022, for class certification with expert report; March 11, 2022, for opposition to class
certification with expert report; and April 1, 2022, for reply with reply expert report.

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1 Google all recognized the efficiency and appropriateness of contemporaneous exchanges of
2 expert reports – as Plaintiffs continue to propose.

3 Relying on a 2007 out-of-circuit district court decision, Google claims that its proposed
4 sequencing of expert reports is “routine practice”. But contemporaneous exchange of reports is
5 routine in this Court. *See, e.g., In re Robinhood Outage Litigation*, No. 20-CV-01626-JD, (N.D.
6 Cal. July 14, 2020) (ECF No. 89). Indeed, “the default provision under the applicable federal
7 civil rule provides for an initial simultaneous exchange of expert reports unless otherwise
8 stipulated or ordered.” *Aszmus v. McInnis*, No. 3:14-CV-00166-SLG, 2014 WL 12631868, at *1
9 (D. Alaska Dec. 8, 2014) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(D)(i); *but see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26
10 advisory committee's note to 1993 amendments, Paragraph (2)). Google's proposal not only
11 allows Google to “obtain[] an obvious litigation advantage of prepar[ing] [its] expert reports
12 after seeing [Plaintiffs'] first”, *Sanchez v. Stryker Corp.*, No. 210CV8832ODWJCGX, 2012 WL
13 13006186, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 28, 2012), it also ignores the fact that under the rule-of-reason
14 burden-shifting analysis, Google itself bears the burden of proof with respect to procompetitive
15 justifications for its conduct. *FTC v. Qualcomm Inc.*, 969 F.3d 974, 991 (9th Cir. 2020).

16 **III. GOOGLE'S PROPOSAL**

17 Google will be seeking the dismissal of all Complaints on the schedule ordered by the
18 Court and reflected below.

19 In the event the MDL proceeds beyond the pleadings, however, Google proposes below a
20 reasonable case schedule and tentative trial plan. At this early stage of the MDL proceedings,
21 Google has proposed ambitious but realistic deadlines, and a fair and efficient sequencing of case
22 events, consistent with Google's Seventh Amendment rights and preserving its objections to
23 impermissible one-way intervention. Google respectfully reserves the right to modify its
24 proposal as the MDL advances, based on further feedback from the Court as well as factual and
25 legal developments that may alter the efficiencies and fundamental fairness of any trial plan. In
26 the meantime, Google's updated proposal reflects the following principles:

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A. October is a reasonable trial date under the current circumstances

Since the parties last submitted a scheduling proposal, events warrant modifications to the previously proposed case schedule. All parties agree on this point. Google respectfully proposes a trial in October 2022. Under Google’s proposal, trial would fall approximately two years after the service of the earliest-filed complaint in the MDL, a reasonable (indeed, aggressive) timeline for this type of complex, multi-party antitrust action, especially in light of the recently-added States’ Action. Google’s proposal builds in a reasonable amount of time so that the parties can complete the various work streams and present matters efficiently to the Court for decision. Although the parties have made extensive progress on document and data discovery, substantial fact discovery remains, even without consideration of necessary, new discovery directed specifically to the recently-filed States’ complaint (which adds 37 new plaintiff-States to the MDL). In addition, each group of Plaintiffs opted to amend their complaints before any hearing of Google’s motion to dismiss, which necessarily delayed pleadings challenges and impacted the overall case schedule.

B. Google proposes a logical sequencing of case events that is consistent with the Court's prior guidance and maximizes pretrial coordination and efficiency.

Google agrees with the Court's prior guidance:

THE COURT: Now, in terms of a scheduling order, first, the way I like to pace cases is to have fact discovery -- class cert proceedings go before the close of fact discovery. All right? So it's class cert, get through that; close the fact discovery, finish that; then you do your expert discovery, and then you file your dispositive motions and Daubert motions.

Oct. 29, 2020 Status Conference Tr. at 7:23-8:4. This approach makes sense because it emphasizes pretrial coordination, a fundamental purpose of MDL proceedings, and it would mitigate issues arising under the “one-way intervention” doctrine (discussed more fully below). Alternative proposals would lead to inefficiencies and unnecessary burdens, such as the service of merits expert reports on different schedules, the filing of dispositive motion papers on different deadlines, and may lead to multiple trials relating to the same conduct and alleged damages.

1 **C. Google's proposed sequence for the disclosure of merits expert reports reflects
2 standard practice in antitrust and complex litigation, is fully consistent with the
3 Court's prior guidance, and is more efficient than concurrent expert disclosures.**

4 Google proposes that the parties sequence the service of expert reports as follows: (1) the
5 party that bears the burden of proof on a given issue serves its opening expert reports on that
6 issue; (2) the opposing party or parties then serve rebuttal expert reports; and (3) the party with
7 the burden of proof then serves rebuttal reports in reply. Not only is seriatim exchange the
8 “routine practice,” *Sadata Techs., Inc. v. Infocrossing, Inc.*, No. 05 Civ. 09546, 2007 WL
9 4157163, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 16, 2007), it is contemplated by Rule 26 itself. *See* Fed. R. Civ.
10 P. 26 Advisory Committee Note to 1993 Amendment (“[I]n most cases the party with the burden
11 of proof on an issue should disclose its expert testimony on that issue before other parties are
12 required to make their disclosures with respect to that issue.”); *see also* Fed. Judicial Ctr.,
13 Manual on Complex Litigation, Fourth § (2004) (“[T]he party with the burden of proof on an
14 issue should normally be required to disclose its expert testimony on that issue before the other
15 parties.”). This Court has adopted Google’s proposed sequencing in other cases. *See, e.g.*, MDL
16 Scheduling Order at 1, *In re Capacitors Antitrust Litig. (No. III)*, No. 17-md-02801-JD, Dkt. 39.
17 Plaintiffs’ proposal for simultaneous disclosure diverges from this standard practice, and risks
18 prejudice and inefficiency. *See, e.g.*, *Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Pension Fund v. Cisco Sys., Inc.*, No. C 01-20418 JW, 2005 WL 1459572, at *1-2 (N.D. Cal. June 21, 2005) (rejecting
19 argument that Rule 26 “contemplates a simultaneous exchange of expert disclosures,” noting that
20 “to respond to [Plaintiffs’ experts’] theories, Defendants[’] expert must know of them in
21 advance”). Simply put, seriatim service of expert disclosures ensures that the party bearing the
22 burden focuses on setting forth its showing and it ensures the opposing party knows what it
23 needs to rebut, before it is required to tender its rebuttal. This avoids shadow boxing, it avoids
24 wasted effort and it is consistent with fundamental fairness; that is why it is the convention.

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1 **D. Any trial should be after the class certification and coordinated dispositive
2 motions are decided, and should be tried together (both on liability and
3 damages) before the same jury.**

4 Although it is early in the MDL proceedings -- the pleadings are not yet settled and
5 substantial discovery remains -- at this stage Google supports the Court's statement to not try
6 "the same liability questions more than once." MDL ECF No. 67 at 2. Google has therefore
7 proposed a schedule that at this time contemplates a consolidated trial before a single jury. Such
8 a trial could proceed, subject to considerations of efficiency and fairness, with liability addressed
9 first, and then, only if needed, damages addressed in a subsequent phase heard by the same jury.
10 At this stage, Google is concerned that permitting separate juries to consider liability and
11 damages would be inefficient and potentially prejudicial. Moreover, any determination of
12 equitable remedies could be efficiently addressed -- again, only if necessary -- by the Court
following the jury proceedings.

13 **E. Google objects to any proposal that leads to different juries hearing damages
14 claims relating to the same alleged conduct.**

15 It would be inefficient and prejudicial for different juries to hear potentially overlapping
16 and/or conflicting damages claims purportedly flowing from the same alleged conduct. The
17 juries may effectively be asked to re-examine and re-decide the same or related damages issues,
18 leading to collateral estoppel issues and the risk of inconsistent and/or duplicative awards, raising
19 fundamental fairness and Seventh Amendment concerns. As such, Google's current position is
that any required damages phase should be coordinated and presented to the same jury.

20 **F. Any case schedule should mitigate "one-way intervention" problems.**

21 The schedule should permit class certification to be addressed first. Merits rulings (e.g.,
22 whether on dispositive motions or at trial) prior to a decision on class certification and the
23 opportunity for putative class members to opt in or opt out, create one-way intervention
24 problems. By permitting class certification to be determined in advance of merit determinations,
25 the Court ensures that class members receive notice of the action and the opportunity to opt-out
26 well *before* the merits of the case are adjudicated; and it ensures that any decision on the merits
27 is binding on the certified class. Otherwise, defendants are prejudiced because members of a
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1 not-yet-certified class can await the Court's ruling on the merits and either opt in to a favorable
2 ruling or avoid being bound by an unfavorable one. The doctrine is "one way" because a
3 plaintiff may not be bound by a decision that favors the defendant, but could decide to benefit
4 from a decision favoring the class. *See, e.g., Villa v. San Francisco Forty-Niners, Ltd.*, 104 F.
5 Supp. 3d 1017, 1020 (2015).

6 Based on those principles, Google proposes the following schedule:

ACTIVITY	PROPOSAL
Motion to Dismiss [set]	September 8, 2021
Opposition to MTD [set]	October 15, 2021
Reply re MTD [set]	November 2, 2021
Hearing on MTD [set]	November 18, 2021
Final document productions in response to RFPs pending as of August 13, 2021 (excluding any refresh productions)	November 19, 2021
Substantial Completion of States' Document Production and Google Document Production in response to States' Requests	December 17, 2021
Class Cert Motion With Expert Report	January 14, 2022
Class Cert Opposition Brief With Expert Report	March 4, 2022
Class Cert Reply Brief	March 25, 2022
Fact Discovery Cut Off	March 25, 2022
Class Certification Hearing and Expert Hot Tub	April 7, 2022
Plaintiffs' Merits Expert Reports	April 15, 2022
Google's Merits Expert Reports	June 3, 2022
Plaintiffs' Merits Reply Expert Reports	June 17, 2022
Expert Discovery Cut Off	July 22, 2022
Dispositive Motions/Daubert	July 29, 2022

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1	Dispositive Motions/Daubert Opposition	August 19, 2022
2	Dispositive Motion Replies	September 1, 2022
3	Dispositive Motion Hearing and Expert Hot Tub	September 8, 2022
4	Serve (but not file) Motions in Limine	September 8, 2022
5	Pretrial Filing Date	September 22, 2022
6	Pretrial Conference	October 6, 2022
7	Trial	October 25, 2022

8 Google tenders these proposals consistent with its knowledge of the facts and law at this
9 time. Google is mindful that the MDL proceedings are at an early stage and that circumstances
10 may change over the course of case events. Google believes it may be prudent for the Court to
11 implement a schedule as indicated above, but then reserve any decision on the specific form of
12 trial, whether there will be a single or multiple trials, and the sequencing of trials, later in the
13 case. For example, the Court could enter Google's proposed schedule and then take up the
14 specifics of the trial plan at a case management conference following an order on Google's
15 motion to dismiss or after a hearing on class certification.

16 In all circumstances, Google requests that the Court set a reasonable schedule that
17 provides enough time for the discovery required by and of all parties, including the States, and
18 that sequences class certification and dispositive motions before any trial. As the case proceeds
19 and circumstances evolve, Google respectfully requests the further opportunity to update the
20 Court on Google's position as to the most fair and efficient trial plan.

21 **IV. LEXECON WAIVERS**

22 Consumer Class Plaintiffs have reached out to discuss *Lexecon* waivers with the plaintiffs
23 in the actions transferred by the MDL order and are in the process of trying to secure these
24 waivers. *See Lexecon Inc. v. Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach*, 523 U.S. 26 (1998).

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1 Respectfully submitted,

2 Dated: August 27, 2021

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1 Dated: August 27, 2021

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1 Dated: August 27, 2021

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4
5 Respectfully submitted,

6 By: /s/ Daniel M. Petrocelli
7 Daniel M. Petrocelli

8 *Counsel for Defendants Google LLC et al.*

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E-FILING ATTESTATION

I, Brian C. Rocca, am the ECF User whose ID and password are being used to file this document. In compliance with Civil Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), I hereby attest that each of the signatories identified above has concurred in this filing.

/s/ Brian C. Rocca

Brian C. Rocca